



UPDATE Fall 2003

“Water Watch. This is Meredith.”



If you've called the office recently, then you've heard an unfamiliar voice answer the phone. That would be me, Meredith Barkley, your new Water Watch Coordinator. Please indulge me and allow me to tell you a bit about myself.

I grew up in Columbia and graduated from the SC Honors College at USC in May with a degree in Biology. Throughout my senior year of college, I interned at both SC DHEC (in the Watersheds and Planning section of the Bureau of Water) and SC DNR (in aquatic education). After graduation, I began working part-time for SC DHEC, still with the Watersheds section. I worked on special projects, which covered a variety of areas and taught me a great deal about water quality issues. While doing this, I also became familiar with a number of our Water Watch groups that are working through grants.

About one month ago, I began as the Water Watch coordinator. Thus far I've been through most of the files and am beginning to contact all of the Water Watch groups. I owe a great deal of gratitude to the former coordinator, Lynne LaSalle, for her invaluable assistance in this time of transition. She has worked very hard to ensure that everything works as smoothly as possible. Thank you, Lynne!

Each Water Watch group has accomplished a lot to protect South Carolina's water quality since the program's inception. I look forward to continuing to work with you and cannot wait to hear about what you are doing. Please keep me updated on all of your activities throughout the year and do not hesitate to contact me for any assistance that I could offer. Always remember that the Water Watch coordinator is here to help *you*!

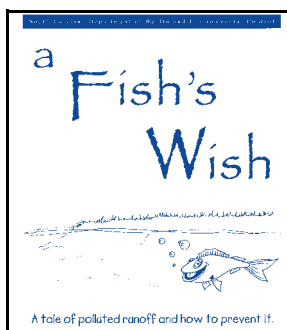
LOOK for changes...

In addition to making contacts, I've also begun to make several changes within the program. In the next few months, look for new things like an updated logo, revised materials, a fresh website and more recognition for groups. These changes should enhance the already strong program and make participation in Water Watch more valuable to you and to South Carolina. If you have suggestions for changes that you'd like to see, or have contributions for the website or upcoming newsletters, please call (803-898-4211) or e-mail me (barklemb@dhec.sc.gov) and let me know.

It's a privilege to have the opportunity to work with each of you and again, I look forward to hearing good things from all of you.

Meredith Barkley
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Here's a Fishy Tale



The educational activity and coloring booklet, "A Fish's Wish" is an excellent tool to use with young students, grades 2 – 5. The most recent printing has new kid-friendly illustrations. For older students and adults, the publication "Turning the Tide" is a great way to increase awareness of non-point source pollution. These two items are available through the Bureau of Water's Outreach & Education section. Please contact me (Meredith Barkley (803) 898-4211) to request copies of either publication. Or, perhaps you'd like to stretch your group's creative arm and create an educational offering of your own!

Which Way Did She Go?

Farewell from Lynne LaSalle

Yes, I have moved on from Water Watch, but I have stayed within the Agency. I have taken over as the coordinator for *Champions of the Environment*. Champions is a successful environmental outreach program sponsored by DHEC (with funding from a US EPA 319 Grant and additional support from WIS-TV, International Paper and INVISTA, Inc). Champions encourages environmental awareness by awarding grant money to K-12 students and teachers for environmental projects. Champions of the Environment also holds an annual Environmental Awareness Competition for middle school students. For more information visit, www.scdhec.gov/champions.

I am sorry to leave you all. I have enjoyed visiting with you, talking to you, and being a part of your activities. I am sure that Meredith will ably handle the role of Water Watch Coordinator. However, she needs you to do your part too. Please, continue your efforts to preserve and protect the waters of our state. In my mind you are all Champions!

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www.scdhec.gov/wwatch



Water Watch

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